

Early Spring 2002

"Go Terriers"

**Created and written for
Washington School for the Deaf Parents**

**SPOTLIGHT
ON THE
WASHINGTON SCHOOL
FOR THE DEAF**

From Superintendent Len Aron

This year our parent newsletter has focused on outreach, academic excellence, student safety and technology. The fourth newsletter puts the spotlight on student and staff success this year at WSD. Students of all ages have achieved high degrees of

success and deserve to be recognized. WSD staff are extremely talented individuals and often their professional contributions go beyond their job assignment.

As school superintendent, I continue to be very proud of the accom-

plishments of our students and staff. Enjoy reading this edition of our newsletter, and join me as I say:

***"Kudos to WSD
students and staff!"***

Collaboration with Washington State University

Like many other schools for the deaf in the United States, the Washington School for the Deaf has been building an exciting collaborative partnership with Washington State University (WSU/Vancouver). The benefits of being linked to a university include access to materials, information, professional personnel, college courses, research activities and technology.

The WSU group has participated in a number of projects with WSD, and to date we have some exciting news to share with our readers:

* Professor Beverly Brink is working in our elementary department on trends

in literacy with the Washington Reading Corps program;

* WSD is participating in a research project led by WSU professors on residential programming;

* WSU will be offering two courses this summer in the field of deaf education.

Also, this summer WSU and WSD are collaborating in an attempt to provide course options for people to enter the field of deaf education. Two of our staff members will be teaching these courses. Our Director of Special Education & Academic Programs, Thomas Meehan, will be facilitating a course entitled "Introduction to the

Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing." This course will be offered July 15—August 2 on the WSU/Vancouver campus. Amy Cohen-Efron, WSD's school psychologist, will teach a course on "Psychology of Deafness." This course will also be offered July 15—August 2 but will be held on the WSD campus

WSD is proud to be working with WSU in paving the way to increase programming options for people wishing to work in the field of special education focusing on the deaf and hard of hearing.

"Our Olympics Unit" by Michelle Clark, Chris Fertig, April McArthur

What a fun month we had in February! The first through fourth grade classes combined to study the Olympic Games for four weeks. Students were divided into three groups: red, blue, and white. This was a wonderful opportunity for us to study the diverse aspects that make up the events of the Olympics. We studied all the points of view across the spectrum from social studies to science. Michelle Clark taught social studies, April McArthur taught language arts and Chris Fertig taught science. We met for an hour and fifteen minutes almost daily. During the first 15 to 30 minutes events happening at the Olympics were discussed. The remainder of the time was spent in groups studying the Olympics from a specific subject standpoint.

In Michelle's class, each student learned about the meaning behind the colors of four different flags: Olympic flag, this year's Salt Lake City Olympic flag, U.S. flag, and Utah's state flag. Michelle worked with Brad Thornberry, WSD's art teacher, to encourage each student to make their own unique individual flag. The students drew pictures on their flags of things they value most in their lives. Students answered the following questions: what are your favorite ac-

tivities, sports, books, animals, colors and where do you live and who is your family. These flags will be saved to connect to a unit later in the year for Flag Day.

In April's class, each student chose a sport to research and study. First collages were made by cutting pictures of a specific sport from newspapers and gluing them onto folders. Then we read articles in newspapers, on the internet and in encyclopedias about the sports chosen. Students wrote brief summary reports about their individual sport. Later, after the Olympics unit, each student in April's class gave a short presentation of what they learned about their particular sport.

In Chris' class, the students looked at slides of the state of Utah during different seasons. They were able to appreciate the creative beauty of a diverse state during spring, summer, fall and winter. The students were also able to see what the host site of the Winter Olympic Games looked like and visualize the people visiting the area.

Students watched a video of the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympic Games. They loved to watch the ice skaters give their beautiful performances, fireworks,

people and see the flags representing each country.

The grand finale to our unit was a field trip to Mountain View Ice Arena. We wanted to give the students a real-life, hands-on experience which helped students understand what Olympic athletes go through. We truly learned how difficult it is to ice skate! Even though most of us fell, we kept on trying to skate on the ice. About 10 minutes before we had to leave the rink, amateur ice hockey skaters came onto the ice to warm-up. We asked them to teach us some ice skating 'moves' and to give us tips. What a thrill to watch and learn from these real 'experts.'

As a result of this unit we learned that it takes lots of practice, commitment, and dedication to become an Olympic athlete. We also learned the value of teamwork and that sportsmanship is important. Ask your child about Apolo Anton Ohno or Michelle Kwan. We learned from the best what it truly means to work hard and to accept defeat gracefully. That, in itself, is a lesson from the heart.



Dr. Seuss Party by Jamie Price

On Tuesday March 5, our students from preschool to fifth grade came together to celebrate "Read Across America". Jamie Price told the story of *Bartholomew and the Oobleck* by Dr. Seuss. Immediately following the storytelling, students were divided up

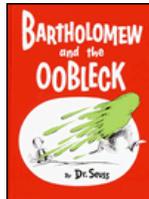
in small groups to play a variety of games such as pin the bowtie on the Cat in the Hat, Dr. Seuss board games, connect-the-dots, and the best of all, create their own Oobleck. Oobleck is created with a mixture of cornstarch and water giving it the right

texture so it is hard to the touch, but when you dig in, the Oobleck runs through your fingers. A sure delight for our students! The students were sent home with their own hat loaded with goodies.

We all had a great time!



Making Oobleck



Wesley Wilson enjoying his new hat!



Olivia Mackey working on a connect-the-dots picture.

The Washington—Connecticut Connection

There are students here at the WSD who are doing a unit project with the students at the American School for the Deaf (ASD) in Connecticut. Every week the students meet and discuss the progress they are making on their collaborative project, share their ideas and work together.

These two classes are 3,000 miles apart, but when you talk with them about their classmates, they feel like they are in the same room taking classes together. So how is this done?

WSD is proud of the K-20 system that is accessible to us here on the campus. The K-20 system allows our school to use video-conferencing as a mode of communication. It is a combination of a television monitor, computer station and video camera. By dialing in and connecting with another

location, the users can not only hear each other, but see each other "live".

Unique to our situation here at WSD, we have been able to configure our equipment to connect with the video conferencing equipment at ASD in West Hartford, Connecticut. After an initial unit planning meeting via K-20 between selected teaching staff at both schools, they and their students embarked on a pioneer trail of combining students and teachers into one "cyber classroom" in order to bridge a trans-national gap of miles and yet work side by side.

The units, developed and followed by each group, included personal introductions, staff and campus overviews, video documentaries of the two schools, weather conditions, residential activities, sports and state history facts.

Our students saw snow three feet high, while the Connecticut group saw hail falling in sunshine! Our students were treated to a video tour of the sights of Hartford, including the house of Mark Twain, while the students at ASD saw Fort Vancouver.

ASD students even noticed that some of our signs in sign language were slightly different - a common thing when it comes to comparing various regions within the United States.

We hope to continue this "cyber-classroom" and expand it to other classes and perhaps other schools around the nation.

Join WSD for America's Walk for Diabetes

WSD supports America's WALK for Diabetes in Vancouver on May 18th!

Sponsor our WSD WALK Team for \$10 or more as we raise money to find a cure for diabetes!

- Make checks payable to the American Diabetes Association and mail to Kim Shafer at WSD.
- Want more information: call Becky Munson at the Student Health Center
- Check the website at

www.diabetes.org/walk

Giving to the Community

Under the creative watch of Brad Thornberry, WSD's art teacher, high school elective art students will be designing a tabletop at the Fort Vancouver Regional Library located near WSD.

The finished masonite tabletop, measuring 42" x 42", will be covered with tempered glass. The library will provide special acrylic paints. When

completed, the tabletop will be featured in the Young Adult section of the library. Of course, we will check to see if we can "borrow" it to display during one of our Open House days slated for late spring.

This project is a great opportunity for our students to have their work featured and their talents recognized.

Teacher Training

We are proud to announce that two teachers from WSD have been invited to participate in a Literacy Symposium in San Diego, California, May 31-June 2. April McArthur and Julia Fritz will join 30 teachers from California and Arizona to focus on promoting best practices in reading instruction for deaf and hard of hearing students.

The aim of the symposium is to encourage good reading instruction to be used together with good signed

practices, presented by instructors with hands-on demonstrations and discussion groups.

This is an exciting opportunity for WSD staff members who will then bring the information back to the teachers at WSD to assist in improving literacy for all students on campus.

As you all know, literacy is an area in which all children need to demonstrate the best skills they can develop.

This is true of all children regardless of their hearing status. For our school, it has been, and will continue to be, a high priority commitment on the part of our staff to promote all aspects of literacy in every areas of our students' programs.

WSD welcomes training opportunities for our staff in their endeavors to develop professionally and to provide a higher quality of education for students.

Elementary/Middle School Awards

CITIZENSHIP AWARDS (1st Semester)

Elementary School

Mariawna Libby
Olivia Mackey
Ashley Medlock
Reyhmond Trinidad
Noah Tufton
Daniel Turchin
Alina Turchina

Middle School

Jennifer Benford
Jordan Biddle
Kara Brown
Quinn Claypoole
Bridgette Eggers
Mathew Graves
Irina Oleksiyenko
Anthony Reynolds
Nicholas Schindler
Andrew Shipman
Johanna Smith
JuliAnn Taylor
Nahn Tran

HONOR ROLL (1st Semester)

5th/6th Grade

Casey Behler
Jordan Biddle
Kara Brown
Quinn Claypoole
Nicholas Schindler
Andrew Shipman
Johanna Smith
Nahn Tran
Samantha Wilson

7th/8th Grade

Jennifer Benford
Bridgette Eggers
Matthew Graves
Michael Hoyt
Maura Mackey
Anthony Reynolds
JuliAnn Taylor

MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR

Art

1st - Maura Mackey
2nd - Quinn Claypoole
4th - Eva Vasquez

Technology

1st - Neal Kelly
2nd - Jordan Biddle
3rd - Jennifer Benford
4th - Alicia Sanders

Math

1st - Veronica Reyes
2nd - Juliann Taylor
3rd - Tony Reynolds
4th - Kendra Omoth

English

2nd - Maura Mackey
3rd - Veronica Reyes
4th - Christina Stalter

Social Studies

1st - Maura Mackey
2nd - Neal Kelly
3rd - Matthew Graves
4th - Mike Hoyt

Science

Most Improved - Tony Reynolds
1st - Matthew Graves
2nd - Mike Hoyt
3rd - Samantha Wilson
4th - Bridgette Eggers

Most helpful- Quinn Claypoole

Most positive attitude- Johanna Smith

Most improved effort- Jessica Harwell

Outstanding effort - Matthew Graves

Note: To respect parent's wishes, some names may not be listed

**Congratulations
to all!**

Middle School Associated Student Body

The Middle School Student Body Association helps to develop leadership for the seventh and eighth grade students. Elected officers learn how to run meetings and make presentations to the Supervising Teacher regarding issues that the student body deems important. To become an

elected officer, students must go through the process of nomination, campaigning and selection by written, private vote of the whole seventh and eighth grade. The officers are held to a high standard of citizenship.

This year's officers are:
President: Maura Mackey

Secretary: Eva Vasquez
Treasurer: Matthew Graves
Historian: Mike Hoyt
Seventh Grade Representative:
Jasmine Vail
Eighth Grade Representative:
Jennifer Benford

Brad Thornberry, Art Teacher at WSD

Brad Thornberry joined the teaching staff at WSD last August. We've asked him to tell us a little about himself and his art program which has been a very exciting addition to our education program.

Brad explains: Art has been my passion. I grew up in and with art. I am deaf and my parents are hearing. With a communication problem with my parents, I became involved with art to keep myself busy. After I graduated from high school, I decided to major in graphic art at Western Oregon University. After transferring to California State University at Northridge (CSUN), I changed my major to deaf studies with an emphasis on deaf children. After graduating from

CSUN, I moved back to Washington where I became a student life counselor at WSD and worked in the dorms for 10 years before I decided to become a teacher, specifically an art teacher for deaf children. I went back to school at Lewis and Clark and received my masters in deaf education. Now I am here and my dream has come true.

It's been six months since I became the art teacher for WSD. It has been a fast year for me, but I have enjoyed my work. Most people think I only teach art. In reality, I not only teach art and its concepts, but I apply it to the students curriculum from art to world history. I spend time every Friday approaching teachers to find out

their lesson plans for the following week. With this information, I am able to apply art to what the students will be learning in their core classes.

For the pre-school program, I have focused lessons on shapes. In elementary, lessons have been designed around science. I middle school lessons have been designed around history, culture, and geography. In the high school, I am also teaching an elective class in 3-D and 2-D art.

We welcome visitors to come in and see the artwork adorning our halls.



Technology Grant Awarded to WSD

WSD has been awarded a "Teach to the Future" program grant. This grant will provide technology support to the school and provide training for a master teacher who in turn will teach staff how to integrate technology into the curriculum.

Piper Gallucci has been identified

as WSD's master teacher (MT) for the "Teach to the Future" program. Piper is currently the academic technology mentor. As technology mentor, Piper helps teachers integrate technology into classroom instruction.

As the WSD master teacher, Piper will receive a laptop computer, soft-

ware, and master teacher training. She will then attend a three-day Teacher Leadership Seminar funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Piper will also receive a \$5,000 cash grant to purchase equipment for her classroom use.

Congratulations Piper!

Virtual Professional Development Network Pilot Project

Congratulations to Shannon Graham, science teacher at WSD, who has been identified as one of the nation's best teachers of deaf and hard of hearing students. Shannon and three other teachers of deaf and hard of hearing students have been

invited to participate in the "Virtual Professional Development Network Pilot Project" by the Educational Foundations and Special Services at Kent State University. Shannon will use video conferencing technology to share her instructional strategies and

resource information with new teachers in the nation's deaf education teacher preparation programs. The goal of the program is to ensure that pre-service teachers of deaf and hard of hearing students and the faculty who prepare them are technologically proficient.

Student Leaders

The High School Student Body Government (SBG)/Student Council has had a good year under the sponsorship of Pat Almer and David Born.

The Student Council led by President Alicia Jilbert meets twice a month. Alicia is assisted by Lokeni Tiatia, Vice President/Secretary, Brady Chandler, Treasurer, and Marleena Turner, Sergeant at Arms. In addition, a representative from each first period class attends the student council meetings. Once a month, the council meets with Superintendent

Len Aron to discuss issues that concern students.

SBG/ student council activities have included a Christmas toy drive. Toys donated by our students were distributed by the Vancouver Police department to needy children in the Clark County area.

The next SBG/Student Council activity is a raffle with items like a hotel room in Seattle for one night plus dinner. Tickets will go on sale soon.



Alicia Jilbert
Student Council President

First Semester High School Honor Banquet by Piper Gallucci

On the evening of March 7, the WSD library was transformed. Round tables covered in white linens dotted the room. Each table donned a centerpiece of spring flowers. Students and family members sat chatting at each table while staff members served an Italian spaghetti dinner.

It was the night of the Third Annual Honor Banquet, a bi-annual celebration for WSD students who have either demonstrated exemplary academic achievement, earned a vocational award, and/or citizenship awards for the semester.

On this night 13 students received Honor Student pins and a certificate for receiving a 3.0 GPA or above. Four students received the Principal's Award for their job performance skills in the vocational training program. Six students received special recognition for their citizenship skills, which included: Most Helpful and Most School Spirit.

What made the evening even more special was the attendance of family members and friends. Family members arrived from various parts of the state to share a meal and participate

in honoring their child. Students, whose parents were unable to attend, chose a staff member to accompany their child. Donna Power, high school Supervising Teacher, Tommy Meehan, the Director of Special Education & Academic Programs, along with Len Aron, WSD's Superintendent, presented awards.

Outside the library a light dusting of snow fell in the crisp, cool air, but inside the library it was warm with praise for the Honor Banquet recipients.

*****Honor Banquet Highlights*****



High School Citizenship Awards!

Congratulations to the following students who received the "Citizenship Award" in the high school

SuMalar Aung
Brady Chandler
Jeremy Davis
Wayne Hansen
Michele Howard
Peter Li
Jocelyn McLennan
Keri Morris
Jessica Newman

Fernando Ramirez
Holly Shaw
Phillip Somers
Marleena Turner
Darby York
Van Atkins
Edith Aviles
Coco Corrieo
David Griffin

Chris Hoisington
Lakisha Kearney
Jacob Lowe
Deo Mendoza
Chris Mortensen
Chris Plancic
Cayci Scoggins
Mary Simpson
Lokeni Tiatia
James West

WSD's Nursing Supervisor is a Published Author

Becky Munson, RN, frequently publishes articles in a variety of nursing, health, and school related magazines. Parents can go online to find articles in the magazine, *Purple Mountain Press* at <http://kids.purplemountain.com/children/>. Just type "Munson" into the search box and a list of all her articles (33) will come up and can be clicked on to read.

Congratulations to Becky for helping students, families, and school person-

nel understand health needs and other school-related issues in a fun, friendly way.

*****HOT OFF THE PRESS*****

This week Becky's editor at *Nursing 2002* magazine sent her a list of five topics they want written for their Myths and Facts About....column. Becky's articles have been published in this magazine three times with one more coming out next month. In fact, they have asked Becky to write 12

articles in all with the first appearing in their September 2002 issue. Soon the nursing journals will be online and we will add a link to WSD's website so you can read Becky's articles online.

Way to go Becky!



Educational Interpreting News by Denise Marychild

The Outreach department, here at WSD is involved in several projects in the area of educational interpreting.

In January, we held a two-hour teleconference on "Interpreting Stories in School". I am currently presenting a series of six, two-hour interactive video conferences through our K-20 system. The topic is "Educational Interpreting Theory" and we have 12 sites connected with a total of 30 participants. So far our topics have covered, "The History of Educational Interpreting", "Understanding the IEP Process" and "Interpreting in Pre-school and Primary Grades".

From June 23 to 27, WSD will host the Washington State Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Summer Institute. We expect to have over 100 participants from all over the state including educational interpreters and other school personnel who work with deaf

and hard of hearing students in mainstream settings. There will be eight different strands of workshops during the five day conference. It will be a wonderful opportunity for educational interpreters to network and be immersed in ASL and interpreting issues.

I will also be presenting at the Yakima Combined Summer Institute on July 24 and 25.

The part-time position I hold with WSD enables me to use my own time to go to Albuquerque, New Mexico and present a workshop on "Interpreter Injury: Causes, Identification and Prevention" at their Community and School Awareness Conference April 12 to 14.

Work has already begun on workshops and K-20 trainings for next year. Topics may include: social-

emotional, cognitive and linguistic development of deaf and hard of hearing students, basic audiology information for interpreters, building rapport with staff in the mainstream and interpreting with students who do not yet have full language.

I look forward to many opportunities to work with educational interpreters and the deaf and hard of hearing students they serve.



Denise Marychild
Educational interpreter Consultant

WSD is Recognized as a Research Center

Kudos to WSD's school psychologist, Amy Cohen-Efron and parent-infant specialist, Jackie Gralnick for being selected by the Stoelting Company to participate in the standardization project of the revision of the Merrill-Palmer Scale. The Merrill-Palmer Scale is a premier assessment instrument which measures cognitive and developmental skills of infants and children in daycare, nursery/preschool and kindergarten years. Amy and Jackie will attend the all-expenses paid field researcher train-

ing in Chicago, Illinois. This means that the Stoelting Company has selected WSD as a field research site.

This truly is a distinction for our school and the Outreach department to be recognized as a research center!



**Amy
Cohen-Efron**



**Jackie
Gralnick**



Family Learning Nights by Jackie Gralnick

Once a month, since October 2001, the Family Infant Toddler Program has held a Family Learning Night in the elementary school gym at WSD. This is a time for families with deaf or hard of hearing children to come together to socialize when all family members are able to attend. The pro-

gram has been a lot of fun. A variety of activities are offered for parents and children to participate in together. Some of the recent activities have included a cookie decorating table, holiday crafts, bowling, and signed cartoons! WSD's Parent Infant Specialist, ASL Specialist and Preschool

Teacher have helped to make this program a success!

For more information regarding Family Learning Nights, please contact Jackie Gralnick at 360-418-4365 V/TTY or 800-613-4228 ext 365 V/TTY (jackie.gralnick@wsd.wa.gov).

Audiological Technology by Sarah Shetler

As plans are drawn up for new buildings at WSD, beautiful facades are not the only parts of the campus that are being designed. Different types of assistive listening devices are being investigated for installation in the new classrooms.

There are three types of technology that are used for group listening systems: induction loops, frequency modulation and infrared light.

Induction loops for groups are cables that are installed around the perimeter of a classroom. The teacher's voice is transmitted to the cable via a microphone. The cable transmits this signal as magnetic energy, which can be picked up by the telecoil in a student's hearing aid (the 'T' switch).

FM (frequency modulation) systems are the most common listening devices in use for educational purposes

today. A signal is broadcast over radio frequency from a microphone that the teacher wears to the student's receiver. The receiver could be a box the student wears on his or her body, a speaker on the classroom wall, or boots that snap to the bottom of the students' hearing aids.

Infrared systems transmit a teacher or presenter's voice as infrared light rays to a receiver that the listener wears. Most infrared receivers look like headsets that are used with personal CD players.

There are several advantages gained by using an assistive listening system in combination with hearing aids over using hearing aids alone. Two of the most difficult listening situations for people with hearing loss are the presence of background noise and distance from a speaker. Most

hearing aids amplify all sounds equally, so a teacher's voice in the classroom may get lost among other sounds such as other people talking, heating and air conditioning systems and noise that spills over from other classes. An assistive listening system will amplify only the speaker's voice, so the student is not contending with the noise. Also, since the signal is transmitted directly to the student's hearing aid or receiver, the distance issue is also eliminated. The speaker's voice will sound like it is about six inches away from the listener's ear.

There are a variety of assistive listening systems available for deaf and hard of hearing students to use in school. WSD hopes to have the best technology in the classroom for the students.

WSU Diversity Advisory Board—Congratulations Amy!

WSD is proud to announce that our school psychologist, Amy Cohen-Efron, has been named to the Diversity Advisory Board of Washington State University (WSU/Vancouver). As one of its founding members, Amy will share her experiences, expertise and interests in various aspects of diversity.

A commitment to diversity is one of the core values at the WSU/Vancouver campus in Vancouver. It is also WSU's goal to define diversity

in a broad sense and model for the state and country a community of individuals who seek what is best for each other. The parameters of diversity for this group can be expressed through racial/ethnic arenas. It can also be expressed through domains around gender, religion, culture, disabilities, sexual orientation and socioeconomic differences among faculty, staff and students.

Amy, a respected member and leader within the community of the

deaf, will bring the perspective of her community to this group. Her nomination to this board is very timely. It parallels a collaboration between WSD and WSU/Vancouver to bring about courses at the graduate level in educational and psychological studies of the deaf and hard of hearing to the people of Washington.

Volunteers Make a Difference at WSD

In many places where human services characterizes the type of work being done, one will find, to a certain degree, a spirit of volunteerism. WSD is no exception. Our school, which has an illustrious history spanning 116 years, has a fleet of volunteers who can be found in and around the campus all throughout the day. Some of their duties include office assistance, children tutorials and after-school electives support.

Currently there are over 100 volunteers who actively participate in the community of WSD. These wonderful people come from a variety of locales, mainly schools, among which are: Skyview High School, Mountain

View High School, Evergreen High School, Hudson's Bay High School and Portland Community College. In addition to these sources, a great number of volunteers come from the community. During this school year, volunteers have logged in over 1,000 hours at WSD.

All of these people may have heard about our school from the various presentations sponsored by members of our Outreach team, including presentations by Washington Reading Corps Co-coordinator, Jamie Price. Washington Reading Corps (WRC) is a program initiated and sponsored by Governor Gary Locke. It has allowed the call for volunteers to assist stu-

dents state-wide in the area of reading education. WSD was fortunate to be included in this grant proposal and has taken the program to new heights. Currently, Julie Myers, an AmeriCorps USA member, is working in the WRC and has logged in over 600 hours.

WSD is an exciting place to be. If anyone wishes to be a volunteer at WSD, feel free to send a note or e-mail to Jamie Price at jamie.price@wsd.wa.gov.

Winter Ball—"Rays of Light" by Jayne King

On Thursday night, February 28, WSD's gym was transformed into "Rays of Light" for the annual Winter Ball. Black lights, strobes, strings of colored and white lights pulsated to the beat of non-stop techno-music. The dance DJ'd by WSD's own Jazzy Jesse, otherwise known as Jesus Garcia. Balloons covered the dance floor and the walls were covered with black paper and aluminum foil. The names of six area Vancouver high schools; Mountain View, Hudson's Bay, Evergreen, Heritage and Battle

Ground, were painted with glow-in-the dark paints.

ASL students from these six schools attended. Many of these students volunteer at WSD either in the elementary school or during the after school elective program. Refreshments were provided, including old fashioned homemade milk shakes. A special thank you to Student Life Counselor, Kevin Thistle, along with WSD students, Jeremy Davis, Van Atkins, Cayci Scoggins and SuMalar Aung, for spending the entire evening mak-

ing these delicious shakes.

Many friendships were formed and phone numbers, home and e-mail addresses were exchanged before the evening came to a close.

This truly was a night to remember.



WSD's Annual Spring Dance Performance by Sarazan Torelli

Springtime is here and it's time for WSD students to put on their dancing shoes. After only two days a week during the dance elective WSD students are already beginning to formulate their ideas. Presently we have five "works in progress" with at least five more to begin after spring break.

Students of all ages and skill levels will show their talents on **May 23, 2002, at 7 p.m. in Lloyd Auditorium.**

Traditionally, we invite neighboring schools to showcase their talents as well. Possible guests for this year include the Washington State School for the Blind Choir, Discovery Middle School, Middleman Jewish Community Center in Portland, and the Mountain View Dance Team, featuring WSD student, Lokeni Tiatia. This will be WSD's ninth spring performance. The first performance was a variety

show performed by the middle school girls as a thank you to the volunteers that gave their time and energy during the year. The variety show blossomed from a group of 16 to 100 participants. During the past three years the spring performance has evolved into purely musical entertainment. Students dance and sign songs from a variety of cultures.

Every year it gets better and it is never without surprises.

After School News by Jim Divine & Cameron Brothers

After-school activities are going strong! WSD SLC's are the leaders and driving force behind the program. Students are currently signed up in various electives and are enjoying their afternoon activities in a short five weeks elective session.

Swimming classes are offered for elementary and middle school students. Students have been practicing water rescues and learning about safety in and around the water. The tie-dye and art elective have blossomed into a very focused and energized group of students who are producing beautiful drawings, paintings, tie dyed t-shirts, and ceramic clay creations. Students enrolled in cooking classes are creating and sampling

delicious meals. The popular roller-skating elective has won the hearts of many students. A big thank you to Lindsey Budge, our student intern, who is teaching both the tennis and aerobics electives. Girl Scouts has emerged with the help of elementary school teacher, Michelle Clark. Sewing machines are pounding away in the sewing elective under the expert leadership of SLC's Susan Barnett and Shari Nichols. Board games and Project Adventure movement games encourage our students to have fun and problem solve in the "games" elective. Tutor center, senior meetings, genealogy and dance electives are helping students to become organized and to express themselves

as well as set goals.

Our short session of electives ends March 28 and the final elective session of the school year will begin April 9 and continue through June 6. Offerings in the new "spring electives" will include: bowling league, community garden, photography, hiking, swimming class, Girl Scouts, golf, tennis, dance, sewing, gymnastics, senior meetings, tutor center and more.

A special thank you goes to our many volunteers, including individuals from the Portland Community College Interpreter Training Program, local high schools, colleges and the community. Thanks for your support!

Residential Update by Nancy Sinkovitz

The Residential department has some very special announcements regarding our staff. April Lisenby, Student Life Counselor (SLC) from Roberts East, had a beautiful baby boy. Ukaih Early Lisenby was born on November 9. Megan Rozek, SLC from Watson West, had a beautiful baby girl. Her name is Anya Grace Rozek and she was born on January 4. Both babies are a wonderful addition to our residential "family". They come to visit often.

We have more staff news! In July, Darlene Britzius-Nelson, SLC from Watson East, will become a mom. (The word around campus is the nursery is being painted pink!) We will all

be anxiously awaiting the birth of Darlene's baby.

Our high school students participated in the annual Western States Basketball Classic, which was held at the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind in Gooding, Idaho. The students performed well and had a great time. WSD won the award for best sportsmanship. Our cheerleaders came home with the spirit stick and second place in the dance competition. We would like to say a special thanks to our great basketball coaches - Larry Burns, head coach boys, Terence Boger, JV/assistant coach boys, Jason Cox, head coach girls, and Penney Shepherd, JV

coach girls. Good job coaches!

WSD students keep themselves busy with electives and sports. Their evenings are occupied with homework and an occasional visit with friends. In February, a group of students went to the Kiggins Theater in Vancouver and saw a captioned version of "Lord of the Rings".

The Residential Program Supervisors would also like to take this opportunity to thank the residential and recreation staff for all the dedicated hard work they have done throughout this year. WSD's residential program is an outstanding program because the staff running the program are outstanding. Thanks team!

Congratulations to WSD's Class of 2002

WSD's class of 2002 invites you to attend graduation ceremonies on Wednesday evening, June 19, 2002, at 6:30 p.m. in Lloyd Auditorium.



Van
Atkins



SuMalar
Aung



Sean
Danielson



Joshua
Brown-Hagen



Cerina
Covarrubias



Jeremy
Davis

**Sean Danielson
has been awarded
a four year
scholarship to
Gallaudet
University!
Congratulations
Sean!**



Alicia
Jilbert



Michelle
Kopf



Kandace
Perry



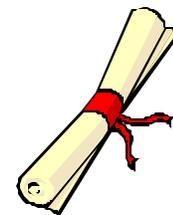
Heather
Pierce



Fernando
Ramirez



Sarah
Ray



Cayci
Scoggins



Lokeni
Tiatia



James
West

Washington School for
the Deaf

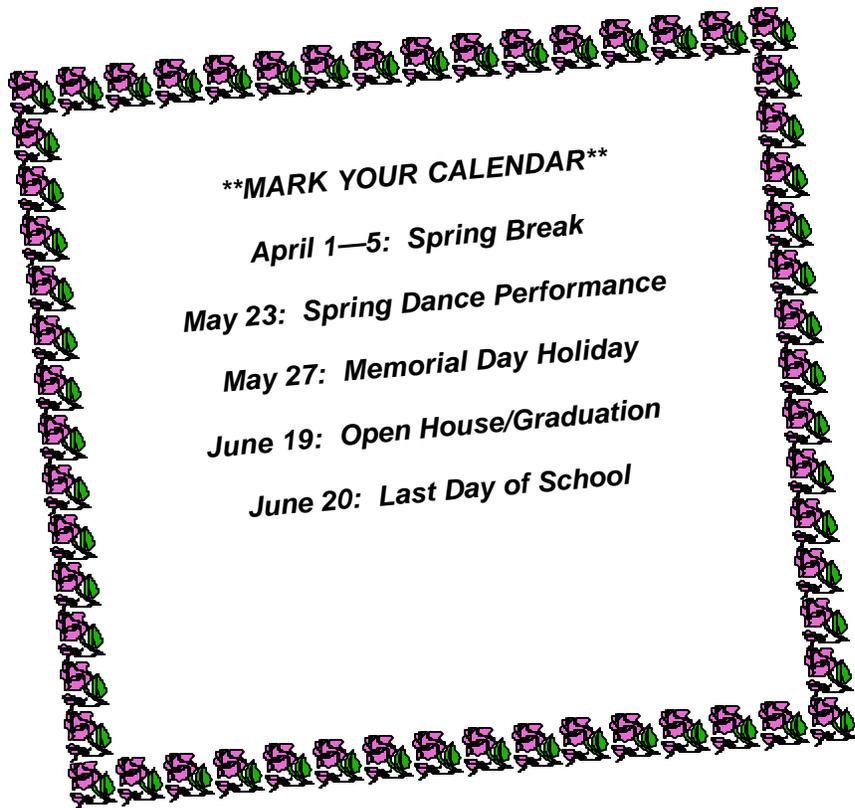
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Vancouver, WA 98661
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(800) 613-4228 (V/TTY)

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www.wsd.wa.gov

****Information Line****

Need information quickly?
Just use WSD's information line
by dialing (800) 614- 6228,
ext. 332. The message is up-
dated weekly.

If you have any suggestions
for the information line,
contact Despo Varkados at
(360) 418-4357 (V/TTY) or
despo.varkados@wsd.wa.gov.



****MARK YOUR CALENDAR****

April 1—5: Spring Break

May 23: Spring Dance Performance

May 27: Memorial Day Holiday

June 19: Open House/Graduation

June 20: Last Day of School



Washington School For the Deaf
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Throughout the State Of Washington

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